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TRANSLATION OF A LETTER FROM
BISHOP BELO, APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF DILI.

Dili,
27 June 1989.

D. Manuel Martins,
Bishop of Setubal,
Portugal.

Excellency,

Please accept my sincere and respectful regards.

In this letter I would like to thank you for the help your excellency has given to us, the people of Timor. Thank you. We still need your support.

I am writing to ask you kindly if you would be able to obtain from the United Nations Secretary General a reply to my letter of 6 February 1989 since I have not received any answer up to the present moment. The ministers in the Indonesian government have made bitter and humiliating criticisms. The so-called Timorese "MP's", both at the local and the national level, were forced at gun-point to draft and sign a Declaration in which they stated that they accept integration and that therefore the decolonisation process has already taken place. But the majority of the people know all about the manoeuvres of the military and of the Indonesian government.

The Christian people pray, while hiding letters under the statues of the Saints, and hope that the happy DAY will come when they can freely express their aspirations as free men. Excellency please pray for me because from one day to the next I may meet the same fate as Monsigneur Romero.

Your brother in Christ,
Mgr. Carlos Filipe X. Belo,
Bishop Tit. of Lorium,
Apostolic Administrator of Dili.

N.B. Bishop Belo's letter to the UN of 6 February 1989 was sent to the Bishop of Setubal for transmission to New York.